(c) By improving supervision of Post Offices, such malpractices are contained.

(d) No Sir, there was no such incident.

Waiting List for telephone connections in Delhi

7072. SHRI J.S. RAJU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the exchange and category-wise details of those who are waiting to get a telephone connection in Delhi;

(b) what is the month-wise rate of granting connections in each of the telephone exchanges of Delhi;

(c) whether MTNL is serious about giving telephone connections on demand by the end of the current year; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Details of the exchanges and category-wise waiting list in MTNL, Delhi as on 1-5-95 is placed at [Annexure-*See* Appendix 173 Annexure No. 153]

(b) Telephones are not granted on monthly basis. New telephones are released when there is spare capacity available or when the new capacity gets added in a particular exchange. During 1994-95, 153090 new telephone connections were provided in Delhi.

(c) and (d) During 1995-96 2.60 Lakhs telephone lines are planned to be provided where as the total waiting list in Delhi as on 31-3-95 is 1.30 lakhs. With this expansion all the existing applicants are likely get the telephone connections during the current year.

Change in the bids evaluation system for cellular phones

7073. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that giving of licences for cellular phone services in the four metropolitan cities in the country by DOT, have raised intense controversies and the decision to invite bids for the rest of the country has run into a rough weather;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the criteria to evaluate the renders has been changed, practically doing away with the assessing of bids on crucial parameters; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof, stating the reasons for changing the bids evaluation system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) In the case of tender for four metro cities some of the unsuccessful bidders had filed Civil Petitions in the High Court at Delhi and Supreme Court against the evaluation criteria of the Department. However, the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgement had upheld the evaluation criteria adopted by the Department and the licences have since been granted to the successful bidders.

The tenders for franchise of cellular mobile service in the rest of the country have also been invited. The last date for submission of tenders is 7th June, 1995.

(b) and (c) The bids will be evaluated in two stages as was done in the earlier tender. In the first stage, the companies will be shortlisted based on eligibility, commercial, operating, technical and financial criteria. Financial bids of shortlisted bidders will be evaluated based on the net present value of cellular levy arrived at by discounting the quoted cellular levy at a rate of 16% per annum with respect to the quoted schedule of payment. All the crucial parameters will still be assessed, however, the criteria have been stated clearly.

Reported violation of environment act by Andhra Pradesh

7074. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-report appearing in "the Times of India" dated the 5th February, 1995 under the caption, "Andhra violation Environment Act"; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND

FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Srisailam Multipurpose Project has been taken up in several stages by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, parts of which have been already completed. Srisailam Right Branch Canal Project and Sriramsagar Project were referred for environmental clearance in October, 1994. The project proponents were asked not to take up any fresh construction till environmental clearance had been accorded to them. These projects have not been fully appraised though they have been discussed in several export committee meetings. Forestry issues had been separately examined and forestry clearance for part requirement has already been given. Preparation of Environment Management Plan which include Catchment Area Treatment Plan, Command Area Development Plan, Afforestation Plan, plan for Management/Conservation of fauna and flora are required to be submitted before a project can be appraised from the environmental angle and clearance given.

Legislative amendments to check trafficking of medicinal herbs

7075. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Doctors Association of the I.S.M. has recently demanded amendment of the Forest Conservation Act and the Indian Forest Act to check illegal trafficking of medicinal herbs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Indian Forest Act, 1927 already regulates the collection and transport of medicinal plants, (which are classified as forest produce under the Act) from the forest areas of the country. The Forest Conservation Act, 1980 only deals with the issue of diversion of forest land for non forestry purpose. Government has already banned the export of 46 species of plants, out of which 40 species have medicinal value. A list of these plants is annexed as statement (*see* below). All the consignments of medicinal plants even if declared by their local names are subjected to preshipment examination by the customs and wildlife authorities to ensure that only the permitted species are exported and that all necessary documents have been produced.

Statement

APPENDIX-XLIII-H

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

PUBLIC NOTICE NO. 47 (PN)/92-97

NEW DELHI: DATED 30TH MARCH, 1994

NOTE: Please see para 158 Part 1(3) of the Policy.

Attendtion is invited to item No. 3, Part I, Para 158 (Prohibited Items) of Chapter XVI Negative List of Exports, of the Export and Import Policy, 1992—97 (Revised Edition: March, 1994).

2. The Director General of Foreign Trade hereby prohibits the export of Plants, plant portions and their derivatives as under:-

1. Aconitum spp.
2. Attropa Spp.
3. Aristolochia Spp.
4. Angiopteris spp.
5. Arundinaria Jaunsarensia.
6. Balanophora spp.
7. Colchicum luteum (Hirantutya)
8. Commiphora whighti
9. Coptis spp.
10. Cyathea gigantea
11. Dioscorea deltoidea
12. Drosera spp.
13. Gentiana Kurroo (Kuru, Kutki)
14. Gloriosa superba
15. Gnetum sps.
16. Iphignia indica
17. Meconopsis betonicifolia
18. Nardostachys spp. (Jatamansi)
19. Osmuhda spp.
20. Rauwolfia spp. (Serpgandha)
21. Rhododendron spp.
22. Podophyllum hexandrum
23. Physochlaina praealta (Bajarbang)